UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/49/67
21 December 1994

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 54

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/49/691)]

49/67. Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling that at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament, it unanimously stressed the importance of both qualitative and quantitative measures in the process of disarmament,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting with concern the potential in technological advances for application to military purposes, which could lead to more sophisticated weapons and new weapons systems,

Stressing the interests of the international community in the subject and the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on the security environment and on the process of arms limitation and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Emphasizing that the proposal contained in its resolution 43/77 A of 7 December 1988 is without prejudice to research and development efforts being undertaken for peaceful purposes,

Expressing regret that the Disarmament Commission was unable to develop guidelines from its deliberations under its agenda item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields", 1/

Convinced that genuine non-proliferation can only be achieved when transfer of high technology with military applications is in accordance with universally accepted, multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory legal treaties,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security" 2/ submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 48/66 of 16 December 1993;

2. Fully agrees with the assessment that the application of new technologies for a qualitative improvement of weapons systems was seen as detracting from the efforts to reduce and eliminate the existing arsenals; 3/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to follow scientific and technological developments and to make a relevant assessment in keeping with the criteria presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session 4/ and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to develop a database of concerned research institutions and experts with a view to promoting transparency and international cooperation in the applications of the scientific and technological developments for pursuing disarmament objectives such as disposal of weapons, conversion and verification, among others;

5. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and assessments;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security".

90th plenary meeting
15 December 1994

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/49/42), para. 22 (para. 6 of the quoted text).

2/ A/49/502.

3/ Ibid., para. 7.

4/ A/45/568.

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 55

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/49/692)]

49/68. The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/44 of 9 December 1992 and 48/67 of 16 December 1993,

Taking note of the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1994 substantive session, 1/ in particular on the work of Working Group II on agenda item 5, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields", 2/

Recognizing that science and technology per se are deemed to be neutral, that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Mindful that the application of science and technology relevant to weapons of mass destruction, as well as to conventional weapons, should not lead to excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms through quantitative build-up or qualitative improvements of arms which threaten international peace and security,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/49/42).

2/ Ibid., para. 22.

Recognizing that progress in the application of science and technology contributes substantially to the implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements in the fields of, inter alia, weapons disposal, military conversion and verification,

Cognizant that international transfers of high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Recalling that norms and guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that they do not deny access to high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes,

Mindful that cooperation in this field among supplier and recipient States should be enhanced by a firm common commitment to preventing transfers of high technology with military applications for exclusively peaceful purposes from being diverted to non-peaceful uses, and that such cooperation should be based on clearly defined and balanced rights and obligations, appropriate measures of transparency and verification, equity and fairness and predictability of incentives and benefits,

1. Affirms that scientific and technological achievements should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. Invites Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. Recommends that Member States adopt and implement national measures, consistent with international law, regulating the transfer of high technology with military applications in order to seek to ensure that such transfers do not undermine international peace and security and that access is not denied to high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes;

4. Also invites Member States to widen multilateral dialogue, seeking universally acceptable norms and guidelines that would regulate international transfers of high technology with military applications;

5. Encourages the United Nations to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".

90th plenary meeting
15 December 1994